

Resolution

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135The Problem:

The Department of Natural Resources and the hunting and trapping lobby have set up wildlife management as a killing business to be funded by killing licenses.

Aldo Leopold, in helping to establish the Conservation Congress, advocated that the non-hunting environmentalist and the landowner be as valued a part of the decision-making process in the Congress as the hunter. He cautioned that the money to manage Nature and wildlife similarly come from the general public funds. Although a lot of money does come from general public funds, there is not a mandated license for the non-killing majority (83%) that gives voice to the concerns of the majority of citizens who would like to walk in the woods and see living wildlife.

Nature is being managed by farming the wild for over-production of "game" species, thereby simplifying nature to the detriment of the rest of the species. This creates an imbalance of too many turkey, deer, ground-nesting birds, and trout. Additionally, the omission of a focus on nurturing biodiversity; restoring the balance of all species; establishing large core areas of refuge connected by corridors for migration; and returning large carnivores to the landscape in natural numbers is irrevocably destroying Wisconsin's ecosystem.

Whereas Nature is under pressure as never before, and our world community of scientists have warned us that the degradation of the web of life is such that it may not sustain future generations of humans or animals as we have known it,

And, whereas, non-killing citizens have a right to pay, and fully participate in the decisions being made about Nature and the wildlife that cohabits our mutual environment,

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Be it resolved, the Conservation Congress, in its annual meeting, held in every county in Wisconsin, April 10, 2006, recommend that the Department of Natural Resources take action to correct this situation by creating a Living Wildlife Appreciation Fee to be levied on all citizens 18 and over who do not kill wildlife, and a forum for delegate representation in every county to vote the usage of that money for re-wilding the state, with a focus on issues pertaining to biodiversity. Bringing in money from the other 83% of the public will help our state immensely, and it is the duty of the Natural Resources Board and DNR to serve all citizens of Wisconsin and involve all citizens in decisions about nature and wildlife.

Submitted by: Rick Bogle
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 County vote: Yes No